



STATE  
BOARD OF  
EQUALIZATION  
2004-05  
ANNUAL REPORT



Board Members

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Betty T. Yee, Acting Member  
First District

Bill Leonard  
Second District

Claude Parrish  
Third District

John Chiang  
Fourth District

Steve Westly  
State Controller

Ramon J. Hirsig  
Executive Director



The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California

June 2006

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the Members of the State Board of Equalization, I am pleased to submit to you our annual report for fiscal year 2004-2005.

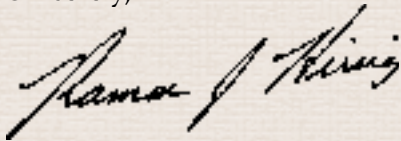
Programs administered by the Board of Equalization produced \$49.95 billion in revenue in 2004-2005, about \$3.64 billion more than the previous fiscal year. The state's portion, \$37.95 billion, contributed more than 36 percent of all state revenue for the fiscal year.

Our agency connects state and local governments by providing essential revenue for the state's cities, counties, and special tax districts. In 2004-2005, Board of Equalization administered programs yielded \$8.84 billion for local governments from local and district sales and use taxes alone.

And thanks to our effective administration and resourceful employees, we offer quality customer service together with public value. In 2004-2005, the Board spent \$209.04 million—only 68 cents for every \$100 of revenue collected.

We are proud to serve the people and businesses of our state as we join you in California's journey through the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ramon J. Hirsig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R'.

Ramon J. Hirsig  
Executive Director





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#### **California State Quarter 2005**

The California State Quarter was issued in January 2005, the 31st quarter of the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters program. The coin, which inspires this report's design theme, shows naturalist John Muir gazing at "Half Dome" as a condor flies by.

Mr. Muir saw Yosemite for the first time in 1868 and was captivated by its beauty. Soon after, pioneering 19th century photographers portrayed the valley that Mr. Muir wrote about so reverently. Their photographs were quickly published widely in books and newspapers across the country.

Some of those photographs are pictured inside. And so are some of the early visitors they helped lure to Mr. Muir's Yosemite.

# State Board of Equalization 2004-05 Annual Report

## Mission

The mission of the State Board of Equalization is to serve the public through fair, effective, and efficient tax administration.

## Goals

The State Board of Equalization will

- Interpret and apply tax and fee laws correctly, consistently, and fairly.
- Collect and allocate revenues as required by law.
- Assess and allocate property values as required by law.
- Educate and assist taxpayers and fee payers to comply voluntarily, while minimizing their compliance burden.
- Provide high-quality customer service, using qualified staff and state-of-the-art technology.
- Achieve program objectives at the lowest possible cost.

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Taxes and Fees Administered by the Board of Equalization, 2004-05